THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAW AT): (a) They are located at seven Centres:

1. Punjab University, Chandigarh
2. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata.
3. Institute of Physics, Bhubaneshwar
4. Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
5. Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai
6. Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
7. Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Only seven Centres have been identified. The project on Integration of Computational Faculty for Scientific Research (ICOSER) was implemented by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council is mainly for an effective demonstration for others to follow the successful models.

Spreading science activities among children in NER

1050. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any effective measures to spread and expand science activities among children in the rural, hilly and backward areas of NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAW AT): (a) to (c) The Government has initiated a number of measures to spread and expand science activities among the children in the country including the NER. For NER, a Regional Science

Centre in Guwahati, Assam has been set up with a wide range of activities to popularize science among the masses. The Centre for Science Education in North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya serves as a resource centre for science communication activities of the region. These measures can supplement science education to bring out science from classroom activities and will also make it a joyful learning of science. State S & T Councils and science based voluntary organizations of NER are encouraged and supported by Govt, of India for organization of science activities in backward areas of the region which include training of science teachers, interaction with renowned scientists, visit to research laboratories, etc. Children from these states are encouraged to participate in national events including the Children's science Congress of DST, Science Model Making competition of NCERT, Science Talent Discovery Fair of NCSM. etc.

Single window application processing in DoB

1051. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Biotechnology has proposed a single window application processing cell, to be headed by a senior scientist;

(b) whether this would be as part of a new regulatory system for the domestic biotechnology sector; and

(c) if so, what steps are being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Within the existing regulatory system under Rules-1989 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has set up a Single Window Application-Processing cell, headed by its senior scientist to deal with all the applications on the recombinant DNA products and substances. The proforma for submitting applications to Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation